

REMARKS

Claims

Claims 10-14 and 16-23 are pending. Claim 18 has been amended for clarity and to correct typographical errors. Support for the amendments can be found in the claims and specification as originally filed.

With respect to all amendments and cancelled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejection of Claims 10-11, 18-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Double patenting rejection

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the obviousness-type double patenting rejection in view of Applicants submission of a Terminal Disclaimer filed January 17, 2008.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph – New Matter

The Examiner has rejected claims 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner states this “is a new matter rejection.” (page 3 of the February 21, 2008 Office Action).

Claim 18 has been amended to recite “a sequence of amino acids X'3X'4X'5GPX'6TX'7X'8X'9”. The omission of the “GP” and “T” was a typographical error and Applicants submit that claim 18, as currently amended, and any claim depending therefrom is in

compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and no new matter is introduced. As such, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1700 (referencing Attorney's Docket No. AFX-0005 C1).

Respectfully submitted,

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